

RESEARCH STUDENTS' SEMINAR SERIES

**Thursday 17 July 2014
16:00 – 17:00**

**SEERC Conference Room
3rd Floor Strategakis Bldg**

**“Rearranging the puzzles of security in post-conflict democracies:
a comparative study of the transformation and political integration
of armed groups in Kosovo and FYR Macedonia”**

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ABSTRACT

The Western Balkans is in its second decade of democratic and security transition following the 1990s wars. Its common denominator is 'European integration', which presupposes alignment with EU legislation, and full adherence to principles of democracy and human rights. However, the newly-emerging democracies face many challenges, some stemming from political disagreements amongst themselves. Others relate to internal challenges associated with democratic transition, not least the legacy of their former security formations in current political affairs.

This thesis will undertake a comparative study of Kosovo and FYR Macedonia. They are emerging democracies with a common past, but have experienced specific trajectories of security transition and democratisation. They both faced internal armed struggles; they dealt with the integration of former combatants in security structures and politics; and they both aspire to join the EU. This thesis will examine the success of the transformation and integration of former combatants into post-conflict security structures, and by consequence their role in these emerging democracies. While they have played an important role in completing the puzzles of new security structures, the research will examine their legacy on the present, and their contribution in furthering, or hindering, democratic progress. To test this hypothesis, the DDR and transformation theories will be placed in the nexus of greed *versus* grievance theory in a post-conflict setting.

The seminar series is open to all members of *staff* and *students* of CITY and to any *externals* that wish to attend.